

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-7 and 9-13 are now present in this application. Claims 1 and 9 are independent. By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 7 and 10 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Request for Withdrawal of Finality of Office Action

Applicants note that in the Interview Summary, Paper No. 20070501, mailed May 11, 2007, the Examiner agreed to withdraw the finality of the previous office action. Further comments regarding the Interview are set forth below.

Examiner Interview

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the telephone interview, which was conducted on May 2, 2007 and May 3, 2007. An Examiner Interview Summary was made of record as Paper No. 20070501. During the interview, Applicants' representative argued that the ribs 69A, 69B, and 69C of Kronbetter do not read on the claimed laundry-stuck preventing part because they do not extend inwardly in a radial direction from an inner circumference of the leakage preventing part. The Examiner was persuaded that Kronbetter fails to show this relationship, but then identified annular ring 64 as possibly reading on the claimed laundry-stuck preventing part. Further limitations to define the laundry-stuck preventing part were discussed. The claims have been amended in the manner discussed during the interview, and are believed to place the application into condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Nonstatutory Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-3 and 7-10 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 2, 6, and 11-16 of copending Application No. 10/722,150.

Claims 1-3 and 7 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 2, 5, 10, 12, and 15 of copending Application No. 10/722,426.

Claims 1-3 and 5-7, and 9-13 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-6 and 9-14 of copending Application No. 10/722,455.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, overcome this rejection. In particular, none of the other claims identified by the Examiner are directed to the laundry-stuck preventing part as claimed. Furthermore, Application No. 10/722,150 has been patented as U.S. Patent No. 6,983,497, entitled "TENSION-VARYING SLIDER FOR A SET OF THREE SLATS", and is not related to the present application.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7 and 9-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,256,823 to Kronbetter et al. ("Kronbetter"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a washing machine, a gasket including a laundry-stuck preventing part having "a ring protrusion protruding from the inner circumference of the gasket toward the third opening; and a laundry discharge part provided on an upper portion of an inner circumference of the ring protrusion to discharge the laundry stuck between the leakage preventing part and the ring protrusion when the drum is rotating, the laundry discharge part extending generally in the same direction as the ring protrusion."

Applicants respectfully submit that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Kronbetter as discussed more fully during the Examiner Interview discussed above. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Similarly, while not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 7 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a drum washing machine including, *inter alia*, a gasket having a laundry-stuck preventing part, which includes "a ring protrusion protruding from the inner circumference of the gasket toward the third opening; and a laundry discharge part provided on an upper portion of an inner circumference of the ring protrusion to discharge the laundry stuck between the leakage preventing part and the ring protrusion when the drum is rotating, the laundry discharge part extending generally in the same direction as the ring protrusion."

Applicants respectfully submit that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 7 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Kronbetter as discussed more fully during the Examiner Interview discussed above. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

For at least this reasons, Kronbetter fails to anticipate independent claims 1 and 7 and the § 102 rejection must be withdrawn.

With regard to dependent claims 2-6 and 9-13, Applicants submit that these claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from one of independent claims 1 and 7, which are allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore these claims are allowable based on their dependencies from one of claims 1 and 7, as well as for their additionally recited subject matter.

Reconsideration and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

Application No. 10/722,443
Amendment dated June 8, 2007
After Final Office Action of March 8, 2007

Docket No.: 0465-1102P

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Chad D. Wells, Registration No. 50,875, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

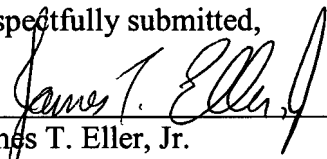
Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: June 8, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By


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